




# Memorandum

**DATE:** May 5, 2014

**TO:** Mayor Gene Winstead

**FROM:** Lorinda Pearson, Manager, Human Services Division 

**CC:** Diann Kirby, Director, Community Services Department

**RE:** Older Americans Month Proclamation

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*Enclosed is the Older Americans Month Proclamation. In attendance to accept the proclamation will be older adults, Terri McStocker and Mary Anne Josephson. Melissa Wurst-Persaud, Human Services Program Coordinator will also be present.*

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however in April of 1963, President John F. Kennedy's meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens served as a prelude to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month."

Thanks to President Jimmy Carter's 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month, is now called "Older Americans Month," and has become a tradition.

Terri McStocker and her husband moved to Bloomington 2 years ago. She describes herself as a "life-long learner" who enjoys taking a wide variety of classes offered through Bloomington/Richfield Community Education and other community programs. In addition to taking classes, Terri volunteers with Human Services in the ceramics room and senior dance committee. She is also an active member of her church and volunteers on different committees focused on helping others and stewardship.

Mary Anne Josephson has been a Bloomington resident for the past 39 years. She would describe herself as someone who can't sit still and always likes to be busy. Mary Anne accomplishes this by working 2 part-time jobs and volunteering at Creekside Community Center. She volunteers at special lunch events, serves on the senior dance committee, plants all of the outside planters at Creekside for each season and also volunteers at community events for both Human Services and the Human Rights Commission. In addition, Mary Anne also enjoys playing pool with other ladies on Thursday afternoons. She feels the greatest reward for her is volunteering and helping others.

Terri and Mary Anne are both terrific examples of older adults who enrich Bloomington through their passions for learning and service.